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Democrats Put Politics Before Children's Health Care

Washington, DC – Republican Study Committee Chairman Tom Price (GA-06) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives passed the *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009*, legislation turning the previously non-partisan State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) into a political tool used to expand the federal bureaucracy and extend benefits to individuals who fall well outside of the bill's original intent.

"Today's action is another unfortunate step in the Democrats' march toward bureaucratic, taxpayer-funded health care," said Chairman Price. "Reauthorizing SCHIP to ensure poor kids have access to health care is essential. Unfortunately, this important program has once again been turned into a political vehicle to advance a liberal ideological agenda. By expanding inflexible government-run health care at the expense of the nation's children, Democrats have made it clear nothing is above politics.

"SCHIP was created over a decade ago with the bipartisan goal of ensuring America's most vulnerable children have access to vital care. There are positive and common sense solutions that will ensure this important program receives full funding and that our nation's children have access to quality affordable health care. Rather than putting ideology over quality care, I call on the President-elect and the Speaker to reauthorize SCHIP in a manner consistent with its bipartisan intent and spirit."

Rep. Price has introduced H.R.464, the *More Children, More Choices Act*. The legislation meets SCHIP's original intent – extending health care to poor children – while providing tax credits for the purchase of personal health insurance for children from low-to-middle income families.

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